

The ARGUMENT touching Security necessary to be given for carrying on the AFRICAN TRADE, demonstrated to be Groundless and Ridiculous.

WITH

REASONS against Confining any Part of the Trade to a Company Exclusive.

1. **T**IS humbly conceived there can be no greater Security of the Continuance of any Branch of our Foreign Trade, than the absolute and everlasting Necessity thereof, as is the Case of the Trade to *Africa*, by reason of its being founded on the Commutation of Cloths, and other Merchandize necessary to Human Life, for Gold, Negroes, Elephants Teeth, Dye-woods, and other useful Commodities produced in *Africa*. So that till Men cease to wear Clothes, and rather chuse to go naked; till the Planters cease to cultivate their Lands, and rather chuse to starve; till Gold becomes out of Esteem, and Mankind cease to seek farther after it; till our Sheep cease to produce Wool, and our Poor chuse to perish rather than work; in short, till there is an end of all Commerce in the World, there is a greater Certainty of the Continuance and Security of our *African* Trade, than of any other Branch of foreign Trade whatever.

2. And as 'tis plain that there is such a moral Certainty of this Trade's being carried on, so the Fund or Duty arising therefrom must naturally follow; and 'tis not question'd but 'twill appear much more than sufficient also for maintaining our *African* Settlements for time to come, on examining what it hath produced in Times past, which by the Accounts of the Ten per Cent. Duty laid before the Lords Commissioners of Trade, appears to have amounted one Year with another to about 9000 *l. per Annum*, in an Avaridge, besides 5 per Cent. for collecting (which is much more than sufficient for maintaining the *African* Settlements, altho' three Parts of this Time hath happen'd under a very destructive War to our Trade in general, but particularly to this of *Africa*, wherein the Separate Traders have lost great Numbers of Ships with their Cargoes, which Losses they have supplied again by building and buying many Ships in the room of those lost; which is a certain Demonstration that this Trade will always be carried on in better Times, when 'tis so well carried on under the many Discouragements it now labours under, as is more particularly confirmed by the great Increase of this Trade at *Bristol*, where within these 5 Years it hath increased to at least 4 times more than 'twas.

3. The same Question may be urg'd in all other Trades, and be an Objection also if it had any Weight, to the Loan of any Fund, on the Excise and Customs, by the Purchasers of Annuities, who may say, What Security can there be that the Trade on which those Duties are rais'd will be preserv'd, so as to produce a sufficient Fund for paying Annuities or Interest. The Answer to it is, That it appearing what those Duties have produc'd for Times past, and People being satisfied therewith, have, in all Times lent very great Sums of Money thereon, without farther Doubt, and have seldom been deceiv'd, because if the Duty don't answer one Year it doth another, which is frequently the Case of the *Turkey* Company. If that Trade don't answer so as to raise a sufficient Sum one Year, for Maintenance of their Charges abroad, it doth another, which will doubtless hold good in respect to the Case in Dispute.

4. But were it a rational thing to believe that all the Separate Traders should cease to trade for Gold, Negroes, and other *African* Commodities, and their Apprentices and Servants should all die at once; yet such is the Case of the Planter, that in our Sugar Plantations he cannot labour himself in the Heat without danger of his Life, nor without the help of his Negroes could he be able to raise Productions enough to enable him to purchase even Shoes and Stockins for his Family. So that the Planters would naturally become *African* Traders themselves, as many of them are now, and meer Necessity will oblige them to send for their own Negroes, if they are not brought to them, which Liberty by an Exclusive Trade they are debarred of, if the Exclusive Company should fail to supply them.

5. If by this Enquiry 'tis understood the Government may be in danger of being at some Expence for maintaining these Settlements, if the Trade should fail to be carried on, the Answer to that is very plain: For if Forts are necessary to Trade only, as is alledged, and such Trade is not drove, there can be no Occasion of maintaining those Forts; but if the Trade is drove, such Trade carries a Duty along with it sufficient for their Maintenance. And in proof that our *African* Settlements would be of little or no Charge, if well managed, the following Abstract of a Letter from the Coast is a convincing Argument.

Abstract

Abstract of a Letter from Hen. Glynn, Commander of the Mermaid Galley, dated from the Gold Coast, October 26. 1710.

" Sir Dalby Thomas has given Liberty to all Out-Forts to trade as the Chief thinks fit, provided out of the arising Profits, they defray the Charge of the Forts; two of them have taken some of my Goods, and are trading for me.

By which 'tis very plain that the Company's Factors having only the Liberty of Trading with private Traders, can, by means of such Trade, maintain the African Settlements without any other Assistance.

REASONS against an Exclusive Trade to the Gold Coast, now offer'd at by the African Company and their Creditors.

WHEN the Company's fallacious Arguments for a General Exclusive Trade to Africa have usually been confuted, then truly they will be content with so much of it Exclusive as where the British Settlements are, which being their present Purpose, the following Reasons offer against that Proposal.

I. Nineteen Parts in twenty of our Woollen and other British Manufactures, being vended on the Gold Coast, where our Settlements are, (and Foreign Goods mostly in the other Parts of Africa) the granting that Part of the Trade Exclusive, would effectually be the Cause of a Monopoly of all our British Manufactures.

II. As 'twould be a Monopoly of our British Manufactures at home, so the Gold Coast Negroes being the most hardy, serviceable, docile and useful, especially to our Sugar Plantations, (who will not buy any other when those can be had) so this Proposal would be in effect an entire Monopoly of Slaves to all our Sugar Planters.

III. As all Separate Ships usually buy the Corn and Provisions for their Loading of Negroes, on that Coast, altho' bound to other Places, so the Excluding the Traders from the Gold Coast would be in a Manner to exclude them from the whole Trade, and the Negroes they load will be in danger of being starv'd.

IV. By this Proposal, there can be but one Importer of Gold from Africa, that being chiefly brought from that Coast.

So that the Demand of the Company in this Case, is the same thing as to demand the Trade of the City of London, and leave the Private Traders the Hundreds of *Esse* to Trade to only.

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T O U C H I N G
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